

First-Year Seminar: SHAKESPEARE & FILM

CRN 4514, 4.0 Credits, FYS 1111, Section 22
Fall Quarter, 2014
Sturm Hall 433
10:00 – 11:50 TR

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Assignment Two: Hamlet's 'bad' histories & others

Texts:

Hibbard, G.R. "General Introduction." *Hamlet*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
Ronk, Martha. *WHY WHY NOT*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2003.
Shakespeare, William. *Hamlet*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
Stoppard, Tom. *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. New York: Grove, 1967.

Films:

Zeffirelli's *Hamlet* (1990)
Branagh's *Hamlet* (1996)
Almeryda's *Hamlet 2000* (2000)
Stoppard's *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* (1990)

Digital Resources:

British Library, Treasures in Full, Shakespeare's Quartos:
<http://www.bl.uk/treasures/shakespeare/homepage.html>

Questions: In which ways do Hamlet's 'bad' histories and others shape your interpretation of the play? How and why does Hamlet's historical background matter, or not? How and why do the quarto editions inform or deform the crux of the story that we find in our edition of Shakespeare's text? How and why do literary and film adaptations engage with this dynamic context of the play's on-going transformation?

Be specific in your discussion. Do not summarize. Focus your work upon your arguable thesis. Provide evidence (i.e. direct quotation) from all of the texts noted above, at least one of the film adaptations, and your exploration of the British Library's Treasures in Full, Shakespeare's Quartos database. Also provide citation information (in either Chicago or MLA format).

Length: 7 pages

Due T 10/7

Note on assignments: Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due at the beginning of class in hard copy form: typed, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-point TNR font, pages stapled. Assignments deviating from these guidelines may be considered late. Work submitted late will receive a deduction of -0.5 per day.